GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retired on 31.07.2019), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 read with Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Inquiry Conducted - Imposition of penalty of "Withholding of five percent (5%) pension for a period of five (5) years, besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,60,586/- along with interest as per G.O.Ms.No.33, Finance (TFR.I) Dept., dated 09.02.2006" against the Charged Officer Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 41 **Dated: 23-05-2025**

Read the following:-

1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.EFS02-19024/47/2020/(8144/2019)/Vig-1, dated 24.10.2021.
2) G.O.Ms.No.64, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 20.09.2022.
3) G.O.Rt.No.104, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 20.09.2022.
4) G.O.Rt.Nos.78 & 79, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 12.10.2023.
5) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, letter Ref.No.8144/2019/A&DC-1, dated 29.08.2024.
6)Govt. Memo.No.2078/Sec.IV/A2/2021, E.F.S.&T. (Sec.IV) Department, dated 16.04.2025.
7)From Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Written Representation, dated 01.05.2025.

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ORDER:

In the circumstances reported by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur in the reference 1st read above, Government have initiated disciplinary proceedings against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retired on 31.07.2019), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle by issuing the following Article of Charge vide G.O. 3rd read above read with G.O. 2nd read above, under Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 read with Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980:-

Article:*"That, Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked as Social Forestry Madanapalle of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuram Circle had grossly neglected his legitimate duties and failed in execution & Supervision of the works in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle during the year 2018-19 which resulted in infructuous expenditure and treated as loss to the Government. Hence, the Forest Range Officer (Retd.) is responsible for failure of the Avenue Plantations and caused waste of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494/- in violation of Articles 5, 273, 294, 300, 301 and 302 of the Andhra Pradesh Financial Code".*

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 21.10.2022 and submitted his written statement of defense on 17.01.2023. Not satisfying with the explanation submitted by the Charged Officer, orders

P.T.O.

have been issued in the G.Os. 4th read above, appointing Sri N. Nageswara Rao, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Tirupati and Sri C. Chaitanya Kumara Reddy, IFS, District Forest Officer, Chittoor as an Inquiry Officer & Presenting Officer respectively, for conducting the regular inquiry.

3. In the reference 5th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri has informed that, the Inquiry Officer completed the inquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.576/2023/M4, dated 10.06.2024 wherein, the Inquiry Officer concluded that the charge framed against the Charged Officer was held **proved.**

4. As per the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the total loss caused to Government is Rs.3,21,172/- which is to be apportioned as follows:

1) Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.)	- Rs.1,60,586/-
2) Sri G. Srinivasulu, the then Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry, Chittoor	- Rs.1,60,586/-
Total	**- Rs.3,21,172/-**

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Rc.No.8144/2019/A&DC-1, dated 09.07.2024, for submission of his written representation, if any. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of final notice on 05.08.2024 and submitted his written representation, dated 05.08.2024 wherein, he did not submit any valid points to consider his request.

6. After careful examination of the matter keeping in view the findings of the Inquiry Officer, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty of "Withholding of five percent (5%) pension for a period of five (5) years, besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,60,586/- along with interest as per G.O.Ms.No.33, Finance (TFR.I) Dept., dated 09.02.2006" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in Govt. Memo. 6th read above, a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer, for submission of his representation if any, on the proposed penalty. The Charged Officer has submitted his written representation vide reference 7th read above, wherein he has not put-forth any new grounds/valid points to consider his written representation.

7. Government after careful examination of the entire matter, have decided to impose a penalty of "Withholding of five percent (5%) pension for a period of five (5) years, besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,60,586/- along with interest as per G.O.Ms.No.33, Finance (TFR.I) Dept., dated 09.02.2006" against the Charged Officer Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle, since the charge framed against him was held proved, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, Government hereby order to impose a penalty of "Withholding of five percent (5%) pension for a period of five (5) years, besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,60,586/- along with interest as per G.O.Ms.No.33, Finance (TFR.I) Dept., dated 09.02.2006" against the Charged Officer Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle, since the charge framed against him was held proved, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

(Contd.P-3)

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle of Social Forestry Chittoor Division, Ananthapuram Circle **through** the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC (Computer No.1555545).

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER